

Delaware Board of Nursing

Division of Professional Regulation
861 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 203
Dover, DE 19904

Special Interest Articles:

- RN and APN License Renewal
- Know Your Board
- Continuing Education

Individual Highlights:

President's Letter	2
Continuing Ed	3
Temporary Permit	4

License Renewal Coming - 2009

Renewal of RN and APRN licenses occurs in odd-numbered years. All RNs and APRNs are assigned to one of three license groups: February, May, and September. License expiration dates coincide with these three groups. Check your license(s) to see when yours will expire. If you hold *both* APRN and RN licenses, both should expire at the same time. If you find a discrepancy between them, please contact the Board office now so that we can correct the license before the renewal period starts.

A single renewal notice will be mailed well in advance of the expiration date. To make sure you receive the notice, check and update your mailing address online at www.dpr.delaware.gov.

Renewal of your license is your responsibility. If you do not receive a renewal notice by late December, contact the Board office.

Last February, nearly 90% of LPN licenses were renewed online. Submitting a renewal application online was quick and simple for the vast majority of LPNs ...and resulted in a renewed license on its way to the LPN within 24 – 72 hours after the office processed the online application.

There is no “grace period” during which you can renew your license “late.” Once the license expires, you must file an application to reinstate it, and *you cannot resume practice until the license becomes “active” again.* The entire renewal process for each licensee – whether online or paper - including any continuing education – must be completed **BEFORE** the license expires.

Two of the three expiration dates in 2009 fall on a weekend. To make sure your license is renewed on time, **please file your renewal application well in advance of the expiration date.**

What it Means to be a Nurse in a Compact State

Delaware is one of twenty-three states that belong to the Nurse Licensure Compact. This allows a nurse with a multi-state (compact) license to work in any other compact state without being licensed in those other compact states. Rhode Island became the twenty-third state to join the Nurse Licensure Compact on July 1, 2008. If you have Rhode Island as your state of primary residence and hold a “current” license issued by both the Board of Nursing in Rhode Island and Delaware Board of Nursing, contact the Board office.

Moving from one compact state to another compact state? Compact license rules require that you obtain a license in the new compact state within thirty days of establishing that new state as your primary state of residence, regardless of the expiration date on the “old” compact license.

A licensee holding a compact license can hold only ONE compact license at a time. A nurse residing in a non-compact state may apply for and hold a Delaware nursing license – these Delaware licenses are marked *Valid Only in Delaware*.

For more information, visit www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/nursing and click the link for *Compact (Multi-State) Licensure* under the *Information* heading.

✧ President's letter ✧

Colleagues:

Greetings! This is my first message to you as the President of the Delaware Board of Nursing. I have served on the Board for the past five years and I look forward to the opportunity to serve in this role for the next year. The function of the Delaware Board of Nursing is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Delaware's citizens by establishing rules and regulations for the licensure and practice of professional and practical nursing. The Board issues licenses by examination and endorsement, evaluates and approves nursing education programs, conducts hearings, and imposes disciplinary sanctions, when deemed necessary. (24 Del.C., Chapter 19, § 1901-1926)

As you can see from the mission, there are many functions of the Board and we are very busy with over 16,000 active Delaware licenses held. There are also many opportunities to uphold this mission. For example, the Board is in the process of revising the Rules and Regulations to bring them up to date with current practice. In addition, we have several new board members whose names can be found on the Board's website at www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/nursing. Three board members and the Executive Director attended the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. History was made when we voted to approve the first Advanced Practice Regulatory Board as a member (Nebraska) and the first international board to become an associate member of the National Council. The APRN Regulatory Model act was also adopted. Attending meetings like this allows networking with other states, territories, and the District of Columbia and reinforces the integrity of our laws in Delaware.

As with any professional, it is important to stay abreast of national and state legislative initiatives. One way to do this is to get involved in your professional organizations. I encourage nurses in Delaware to protect the public by applying to be on Board committees, to take offices in professional organizations, and to serve in their communities. There is a great reward in serving others, and this is an ideal time to get involved.

In conclusion, I welcome the opportunity to serve you as the President of the Delaware Board of Nursing. Please check the Board's website frequently for updated information and feel free to contact me or the Board with any questions or concerns. Most of all—Get Involved!

Sincerely,

Pamela C. Zickafoose, EdD, MSN, RN, CNA-BC, CNE
President, Delaware Board of Nursing

"I encourage nurses in Delaware to protect the public by applying to be on Board committees."

Board Committees

Joint Practice

Rules and Regulations

Practice and Education

Legislative

Assistance with Self-Administration of Medications (AWSAM)

All Committees, except the Joint Practice Committee, are chaired by a member of the Board of Nursing and membership is voluntary. Calls for membership are generally made through DNA, DHCFA, and DONE as well as announcements in the Board's newsletters.

Executive Director's Half

Who is he and where did he come from? This newsletter is well past "due" and, as I reach the first year anniversary as the Executive Director of the Delaware Board of Nursing, the most appropriate thing to share with you is to tell you who I am.

First and foremost, I am a nurse. I graduated from the University of Iowa where I completed my undergraduate education in nursing while on active duty in the U.S. Navy. I also hold a graduate degree in nursing administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

My clinical experience includes general surgical and pediatric units. I spent most of my clinical time with my true clinical love - mothers and babies. I also held a position on the Navy Surgeon General's staff, specializing in quality management.

Following 25 years in the Navy, I held quality management positions at Beebe Medical Center and was the Managing Director of the Maryland

Hospital's Quality Indicator Project for a number of years. Most recently, I held a nursing management position at the Delaware Veteran's Home.

So, why a "Half?" Because, I plan on taking a half a page of each newsletter to address you directly about things that I want each of you to be aware of. What sort of things? Things that concern you as nurses based on phone calls, conversations and survey responses from you that have a similar theme; things that need our attention in the short term; things that appear to be part of the wave of change across the U.S. and sometimes around the world. Simply put...I'll address things that are directly related to the profession from the regulatory side of the fence.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with Delaware nurses at meetings and during visits to practice sites. I can be reached by contacting the Division of Professional Regulation.

Continuing Education - What is an "approved" provider?

Continuing Education is required of all nurses licensed by the State of Delaware as a part of maintaining current licensure. Thirty (30) hours every two years is required of RNs and twenty-four (24) hours of LPNs. The continuing education must have been obtained from a Delaware Board of Nursing approved provider. Few providers seek approval directly from the Board, i.e., submit an application to be recognized. Most meet the definition of an approved provider found in Section 9.1 of the Board's Rules and Regulations – that is, they are either "...a nationally accredited provider of nursing related continuing education..." or are "...an organization or agency approved as a provider or has programs that are approved by a nationally accredited approver of nursing related continuing education." The Delaware Nurses Association is an example of an organization approved as a provider by a nationally accredited approver. The "nationally accredited approver" in this case is the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

A provider who has been approved by applying to be recognized specifically by the Delaware Board of Nursing is required to issue certificates of completion on which they attest to the fact that they are an approved provider of continuing education for nurses by the Delaware Board of Nursing. The certificate must include a specific "provider number."

Nursing education programs approved by the Delaware Board are also recognized as approved providers of continuing education.

You can find other approved methods of earning continuing education hours that meet the licensure requirements in Section 9.3 of the Rules and Regulations. The complete Rules and Regulations are available on the Board's website: www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/nursing.



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Update on Temporary Permits

Temporary Permits can be issued to individuals awaiting the completion of the processing of an application for licensure. Issuance of Temporary Permits is at the discretion of the Director. Permits are "practice site specific" for RNs and LPNs and have expiration dates.

The number of active Temporary Permits is significantly less than it was a year ago. Most of this reduction has resulted from the Board staff's ability to issue licenses between Board meetings. Staff may now issue a license at the point when the application is complete and all

required documentation and credentials have been received, reviewed, and "cleared." In many situations where an applicant has applied for a Temporary Permit in addition to the license, the license is ready to be issued before the applicant's planned "start date" with a prospective employer.

The average processing time from the day the Board office receives an application to the day the license is issued is less than 30 calendar days.

The non-refundable application fee for a Temporary Permit is currently \$32.

Your Personal Online Access

Did you know that you can update your own personal information 24/7 on the Division of Professional Regulation's *Licensee Online Services* webpage? When you've registered to access your professional license record, you can update your address, phone number(s) and e-mail address anytime, day or night.

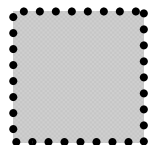
Your "Registration Code" was included with the last license and wallet card sent to you. To register for online services, go to dpr.delaware.gov and click *Change Contact Information* under the heading *Licensee Online Services* in the menu on the left side of the webpage. (If you don't have your Registration Code, you can request the code to be sent to you.)

Licensees are responsible for keeping the Board informed of address changes. Your address and other contact information are used to send you important correspondence, such as renewal notices, and to notify you of updates.

We're on the Web at:

*[dpr.delaware.gov/boards/
nursing](http://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/nursing)*

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